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1. According to ASCOLI we should have to admit a sound-change *niud*: *nivd*; *antiug*: *antivg*, etc. I, for one, think it simply impossible that *iu* before consonants should become *iv*, the opposite change being the only probable one in French. It is not possible, either, to propose a series *niud*, *niu*, *niv*, because—and this leads us to the

2d objection—final *d* does not disappear in prehistoric French, and we should expect therefore to find in Oldest French forms like *niud* etc., which, however, do not occur anywhere in the language.

3. Even if the intermediate type **niud*, **antiug* may be supposed to have existed in the language without ever occurring in the preserved documents,—a fact which in itself is not at all impossible,—is it not strange that phonetic conditions like final *ð*, which occurred so frequently in Latin, should have left so very few traces in the whole French language? The rare occurrence of a certain phonetic development is, of course, the more natural, the more its conditions are restricted, as is the case in our own theory: *nidu*+vowel: *nidv*: *nidv*: *niv*: *nif*.

One point in my theory I seem not to have treated thoroughly enough, because I really did not think that any difficulty could arise as to the question whether *u* could become *v* and *f*. This has been denied by W. MEYER and GROEBER (*Zs.* xi, l. c).

It is true that ASCOLI has already thrown the weight of his authority into the other balance, but, as we have seen under number 1, we cannot avail ourselves of his assistance, since his own proposition seems to us altogether impossible. Accordingly, we must answer for ourselves.—MEYER does not believe that *u*, being bilabial, would become dentilabial *v*. It might be difficult to hold to this objection in principle, when we think of Germanic bilabial *uu* becoming bilabial fricative *w* in South German, dentilabial *w* in North German, and occasionally *f* in North German dialects; e. g., Goth. *weis*, S. G. *wir*, N. G. *wir*, Soest. *fui* (cf. HOLTHAUSEN, 'Soester Mundart.') Compare, further, Norwegian *f*, which according to HOFFARY was bilabial in Old Norse. In Gallo-Roman itself Indo-Germ. *u* as well as *gʷ*, *gʷ* became

dentilabial *v* (VANUS, VENIRE). In short, the transition of *u* to dentilabial *v* is an entirely common one, and the question can only be, does it agree with French sound-change? GROEBER admits that Germanic *u* became *v*, as is necessary for his etymology *fēhu*: *fief*. What the difference could have been between Germanic *u* and Latin *u* is hard to see; but, of course, any statement based on personal convictions may be supported, as long as nothing militates against it. So we shall have to look out for instances among French words of Latin origin;—and I wonder how W. MEYER and GROEBER explain forms like *janvier*, *veuve*, *veuf*, *antif*.

G. K.

STRONG VERBS IN AELFRIC'S SAINTS.—I.

Of the thirty-nine homilies mentioned in the table of contents prefixed to the MS. of the 'Saints' the first and second parts of SKEAT's edition contain 1-23. The 'Interrogationes Sigewulfi' (I. S.) forming number thirty-seven is edited by MCLEAN in *Anglia* vii, 1. These texts form the basis of this study.

The plan of the work is as follows. Adopting the classification of SIEVER's grammar, there is first given a list of all verbs that occur in each class in the forms which their infinitives have, or would have according to the analogy of the forms that occur. If the verb is not used without a prefix it is preceded by a hyphen, and the prefixes with which it is used are placed in alphabetical order after each verb.

The citations are arranged below in the order of the ablaut-vowels, so that all forms with like vowels appear together. Where all is regular according to West Saxon standards, I have not thought it necessary to cite every passage, but I have endeavored to give one citation for every form that occurs. Where there is any irregularity, or where two spellings are used for the same form, I have given the citations in full. The references are to the pages of SKEAT and to the lines of the 'Interrogationes.' All marks of accent or quantity are omitted except in so far as they occur in the MS. Here I have given all cases where

an accent is used over a short ablaut-vowel, but have given only partial citations where it is used over long ones. I have used *ð* as medial and final and *þ* as initial, without regard to the MS. reading except in special cases.

Some notes on the endings may best be placed here.

The 2d, 3d sing. of the present indicative is always in the short form, except *wiðstandeð*, I. S., 229, and has regularly umlaut when possible. An *h* suppressed in the infinitive reappears regularly (*flyhð*, *þyhð*, *sihð*, *fehð*, etc.). A double consonant is simplified (*winð*, *fyðð*), and *ðð*, *tð* become *t* (*tt*), while *dst*=*tst*, or *st* (*fint*, *bitt*, *finst*, *brytst*, etc.).

When final, *h* takes the place of *g* (*stah*, etc.), and double consonants are usually simplified (*ongan*, *feol*), but there are many exceptions noted in full below.

In endings *a* is occasionally used for *e*, e. g. *forleosa*, 108, but as these are usually noted in the text by a '(sic)' it is not necessary to notice them further here. Great confusion exists between *en*, *an*, and *on*, though the infinitive and past participle suffer less than other forms. The following examples will suffice.

en for *on*, *forleten* 388, *ongunnen* 12, 32, *begeaten* 92.

en for *an*, *gehealden* 24, *tosceaden* 20, *unbinden* 222.

an for *en*, *acoman* 252, *beswican* 10, 72, *tocneowan* 48.

an for *on*, *ongunnan* 12, *becðman* 28, *coman* 92, *gewytan* 96.

on for *en*, *beswicon* 242, *eton* 290, *wrecon* 484, *sprecon* 530.

on for *an*, *tobrecon* 130, *beaton* 98, *winnon* I. S. 280.

e sometimes takes the place of *að* where the pronoun is suffixed, e. g. *sprece we* 286, *sceole ge*, 352, *cweðe we* 382, and of *en*, e. g. *bruce ge* 522. In a similar way *an* is used in *faran us*! (let us go) 500, *lætan hi gelangigan* (let them be summoned).

The construction of *wesan* with the present participle, which is so frequent in two of the Blickling Homilies and is occasionally found throughout that text, occurs here so far as I have observed only in *wæs þeonde* 194, and in the 'Seven Sleepers' (which as we shall see in

what follows presents many peculiar forms) four times, *wæs sprecende* 510, 522, *wæs onsitende* 516, *wæs farende* 531.⁽¹⁾

The lists which follow contain 163 strong verbs. Of these forty are used only without prefixes, sixty-one are used always with prefixes, and sixty-two are used both with and without, though in several cases the simple forms are very rare. These are noted as they occur. The division by classes appears in the following table:

Always with prefixes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total.
	12	6	14	5	5	9	10	61
Always without prefixes.	5	10	5	1	3	5	11	40
With and without prefixes.	9	10	18	3	8	4	10	62
TOTAL.	26	26	37	9	16	18	31	163

CLASS I.

Bidan a-, and-, *ge-*, *-bitan a-*, *drifan ofer-*, *aweg-up-*, *-dwinan for-*, *flitan*, *-glidan ofer-*, *gnidan*, *-gripan ge-*, *hnigan under-*, *-lifan be-*, *ridan*, *-risan a-*, *ge-*, *scinan*, *scripan ge-*, *sgan on-*, *slitan to-*, *-smitan be-*, *umbe-*, *spiwan a-*, *stigan a-*, *ofer-*, *swican be-*, *ge-*, *-swiðan ofer-*, *þeon ge-*, *ofer-*, *-witan æt-*, *ge-*, *-wreon a-*, *on-*, *writan a-*, *-wriðan ge-*.

Swican occurs but once without a prefix, *swicað* 352, which may be weak, for it is third person singular, but its meaning is that of the strong verb. *Writan* occurs but twice, 328, 334 (*writan*, *writenne*); the forms with the prefixes are very common.

The infinitive, imperative, present participle and present tense have the regular *i* or *í*. Examples are *gebíde* 84 and *bidað* 358; *drifan* 278, *awegdrifan* 166, *oferdrifan* 36, *drifð* 530; *flitan* 292, *flitende* 88; *belifð* 166; *arisan* 234, *arisan* 510, *aris!* 158, *gerisð* 6; *scinendan* I. S. 143, *scinð* 468, *scinað* 22, *onsigendan* 242, *sliendan* 206, *oferstigan* 12, *stihð* 12, *astihð* 12, *beswican* I. S. 268, *beswicð* I. S. 250, *oferswiðan* 240, *oferswið!* 246, *oferswiðe* (1) I. S. 272;

¹ I will take this opportunity to call attention also to the use of *u* for *f* once in *byuigende* 206, (*bifigende* 212); of *eo* for *e* in *feorde* 154, and to the constructions *gange him* (let him go) 444, *hine gebiddan beo* ("continue in prayer") 288, *oferswiðendum* (not to be conquered) 310, *for lætan* (to be rejected) 336, *to gebiðdene* (to be adored).

þihð, *gewitan* 166 (twice), *gewit!* 170 (twice) 476, *gewit* (3) I. S. 202; *writan* 334, *writenne* 328, *awritan* 510; *gewriðan* 202, etc.

y is used for *i* in the following cases: *scy-nende* 420, *scynð* 258, 436; *spywð* 272; *geswycð* 272; *gewytan* 20, *awrytene* 82.

eo occurs regularly in *þeonde* 194, 280, 322, 440, *geþeo* (subj.) I. S. 491. The preterit and past participle of *þeon* follow the second class.

The preterit singular 1, 3, is always *a* or *á*. Examples are *gebád* 108, *abát* 126, *oferdráf* 232, *fordwán* 166, *oferglad* 220, *hnáh* 122, *under-hnah* 340, *beláf* 138, 390; *rád* 62, 162; *aras* 150, *arás* 52, *sah* 436, 502, *sáh* 528, 538; *spaw* 264, *aspáw* 32; *stáh* 12, *astah* 110, *astáh* 144, *ofer-stah* 330; *geswac* I. S. 19, 22; *geswác* 44; *ofer-swad* 24.⁽²⁾

The 2d sing. and plural and the subj. preterit have *i* in all cases. *Abite* (subj.) 126, *updrifon* 490, *gegrifon* 30, *belifon* 112, 138, 254, *scinon* 254, *to sliton* 492, *gewite* (subj.) 224, *onwriga* (subj.) 166, *owriton* 6. So also the past participles *gescrifene* 282, *besmitene* 94, *unbesmitenum* 94, *beswicane* 10, *beswicen* I. S. 32, *ætweiten* 524, *awriten* 5, 434 MS. U., I. S. 95, etc.

y for *i* occurs in the past participles *besmytene* 46, *awrygennysse*, *awryten* 20, 24, *awrytan* 434, *awrytene* 246.

i for *i* in *stigon* 490; *eo* for *i* in, *onwreogan* (p.p.) 534.

CLASS 2.

Beodan *a-*, *be-*, *for-*, *ge-*, *brucan*, *bugan* *a-*, *for-*, *ge-*, *on-*, *ceosan* *ge-*, *ceowan*, *creopan*, *dreogan* *a-*, *fleogan*, *fleon* *æt-*, *for-*, *freosan*, *geotan* *a-*, *be-*, *hleotan*, *-hreoan* *of*, *hreoan* *leogan* *for-*, *-leosan* *for-*, *-lutan* *a-*, *-lucan* *be-*, *reocan*, *sceofan* *a-*, *be-*, (also *scufan*), *sceotan* *a-*, *be-*, *-sleopan* *to-*, *spreotan*, *sucan*, *supan*, *teon* *a-*, *be-*, *forð-*, *ge-*, *of-*, *ofer-*, *ut-*, *purh*, *yð* *þeon* (in the preterit and past participle, see 1.).

The infinitive, imperative, present participle, the 1st sing. and plural of the present indicative, and the present subjunctive, have *eo* or *u*

² Else always weak, e. g. *oferswiðde* 340, 344, *oferswiðdod* 240, *oferswyðdon* 216; *oferswiðed* 252, 374; *oferswyðed* 252, 358, 360; *wat* 96, *gewát* 32, 66; *awrat* 122, 232, I. S. 48, *awrát* 58, *wrat* 232 MS. B., *gewrað* 252, etc. *Scinan* has *scean* 102, 110, 178, 204, 250, 322, *scean* 92, *scean* 178.

(*ú*). Examples of *eo* are: *bebeode* (1) 22, *gebeodon* (subj.) 6; *ceosan* 32, *geceosan* 172, *geceos!* 176, *gecéos* 300 W., *ceowað* 120; *creo-pende* 14, *adeogan* 160, *fleogendum* 400, *æt-fleon* 12, *fleo!* 300, *fléondan* 416, *fleo* (subj.) 214; *hleotan* 370, *hleotað* 370, *hreoan* 492 (twice); *forleose* 214, *forleosa* (2) (subj.) 108; *reocendes* 170; *sceofan* 312, *besceofan* 182, *asceofon* (inf.) 404, *asceofan* 404; *ofteon* 202, *ateoh!* 212, *ateoð* 22, *forðteoð* 460, *ateo* (subj.) 444 (twice), *ofteo* (subj.) 216; *eó* is used in *oferteán* I. S. 354.

Examples of *u* are: *brúce* (subj.) 34, *búgan* 68, *abugan* 20 I. S. 224, *aubugan* 368, *gebugan* I. S. 481, *forbugan* I. S. 91, *buh!* 272, 380, *gebuh!* 236, *forbúge* 20 (subj.); *belucan* 70, *beluc!* 212; *bescufan* 48 (twice), and 404 MS. Junius (twice).

The 2d, 3d present indicative takes *y* in *onbyhð* I. S. 300, *cywð* 112, *flyhð* 18, 334, 372, *forlyst* 280, *forlystð* 370, *spryt* 293 (twice), *bescyt* I. S. 260.

y becomes *i* in *bihð* 348, *lihst* 272, *lihð* 268, *tihð* 476.

fleoð 250, which is translated as the 3d sing. of *fleon*, is, I think, the 3d sing. of *flowan* and for *flewð*, (see 7, c).

The 1st, 3d pret. sing. is regularly *ea*. The examples are: *bead* 172, I. S. 389, *abead* 28, *forbead* 134, *breac* 172, 62, MS. V, *beah* 140 190, 322, 384, *gebeah* 40, *geceas* 6, *creap* 448, *dreah* 216, *fleah* 54, 298, *leah* 278, *forleah* 276, *forleas* 20, *beleac* 74, *alléat* 190, *sceat* 54, MS. V, 404, MS. Jun., *asceat* 466, 396 MS. Jun., *seap* 60, MS. V., *teah* 50, 518, *utteah* 164, *purh-teah* I. S. 59, *peah* 24, 234, (see 1).

æ is used for *ea* in *bræc* 62, *scæt* 54, 250, *sæp* 60.

é is used for *ea* in *scét* 404, *ascét* 396.

eo is used for *ea* before *w* in *hreoow* 510, *ofhreoow* 300.

The preterit 2d sing., plural, and subjunctive has *u* always. Examples are: *abude* 28, *bugon* (subj.) I. S. 485, *gebugon* 188, *gecure* 198, *gecuron* 42, *crupon* 174, *drugon* 196, *forfluge* 204, *flugon* 204, 492, *luge* 274, *fortugan* (ind.) 38, *scufon* 246, *bescufon* 410, *suce* (2d ind.) 202; *ú* for *u* in *flúgon* 492.

The participle has *o*, twice *ó*. The examples are: *beboden* 252, *forboden* I. S. 42, 195, *gebog-en* 188, *gebógenan* 30, *gecorenan* 30, I. S. 393,

500; *begoten* 182, *begotene* 324, *agotene* 98, 176; *ofhrorene* 298, (MS. Faustina *ofhrórene*); *forloren* 18, *alotene* 14, *belocene* 78, 190, I. S. 326; *gestoten* (?) for *gescoten*) I. S. 325, (other MSS. *getogen*); *toslovene* 248, *toslovenum* 162, *getogen* 26, I. S. 325, *betogen* 458, *yðtogenan* 506; *geþogene* 280, *oferþogen* 62.

CLASS 3.

Belgan *a-*, *ge-*, *beorgan* *ge-*, *berstan* *æt-*, *to-*, *-bindan* *ge-*, *un-*, *-blinnan* *a-*, *una-*, *bredan* *a-*, *æt-*, *for-*, *ge-*, *ofa-*, *to-*, *byrnan* *for-*, *ceorfan* *for-*, *ofa-*, *drincan* *a-*, *feohtan*, *findan* *a-*, *ge-*, *una-*, *-frinan* *be-*, *-gyldan* *a-*, *for-*, *ofer-*, *-ginnan* *a-*, *be-*, *on-*, *umbe*, *helpan* *ge-*, *-hweorfan* *be-*, *-limpan* *æt-*, *be-*, *ge-*, *-meltan* *a-*, *for-*, *sincan* *a-*, *be-*, *singan* *ge-*, *springan* *a-*, *slingan*, *spurnan*, *stincan* *ge-*, *-stingan* *of-*, *-swelgan* *for-*, *-sweltan* *to-*, *sweltan*, *swimman*, *swincan* *be-*, *-swingan* *be-*, *-þindan* *to-*, *-þingan* *ge-*, *windan* *æt-*, *be-*, *ofer-*, *winnan* *ge-*, *ofer-*, *on-*, *wurpan* *a-*, *be-*, *ge-*, *of-*, *to-*, *wurðan* *for-*, *ge-*, *yrnan* *be-*.

1. The present stem. (a) Before nasals *i* is regularly used. Examples are: *unbindan* 498, *unbinden* (inf.) 222, *unablinnendlic* 144, *drincð* 266, 354, *adrincað* 134, *gefindan* 504, *afindan* 130, *ongin!* 186, 246, 478, *aginne* (1) 498, *onginð* 488, *getimpð* 18, *belimpð* 20, 330 (thrice) *belimpað* I. S. 251, *besincan* 112, *singe* (1) 22 (twice), *slingð* I. S. 259, *stincð* I. S. 259, *swimmað* 14, *swincst* 88, *swincð* 380, *beswincan* 238, *winnon* (inf.) I. S. 280, *bewindan* 122, *oferwinnan* 362, *onwinnendum* 190, *win!* 284, *winð* 286, 304, I. S. 262, *gewinð* 364, *oferwinð* 188, *winne* (subj.) 340.

Before the endings *st*, *ð* the *d* in *findan*, *windan* is dropped and *ð* becomes *t*, e. g. *gebint* 476, *finst* 82, *fint* 202.

y is used for *i* in *ablynð* 470, *belympð* 416, *gelympð* 20, *gelympe* (subj.) 22, *wynð* 352.

In *befrinan* 372, *befrinenne* 400, the *i* doubtless long but is not accented.

(b) Before *ht*, *rg*, *rf*, the regular vowel is *eo*. Cases of the 2, 3, indic. sing. do not occur. The examples are: *gebeorgan* I. S. 406, *gebeorge* (subj.) 138, *ceorfanne* 202, *ofaceorfan* 202, *feohtend* 282. Before *rn*, *y* is used: *forbyrnan* 178, *byrnende* 48, 140, 208, 490, *byrnenda* 204, *byrnendan* 140, *byrnendum* 106, I. S. 453, *byrnð* 208; *yrnan* 462, *yrnendum* 148,

yrnað 330, 370. In *berstan*, where the *r* owes its place to metathesis, no breaking takes place. The umlaut in the third person is *y*. *Ætherstan* 246, 530, I. S. 480, *ætbrytst* 266. After *w* we find *u*, with umlaut in the third singular to *y* in two cases, while *u* is retained in two. The forms are: *wurpan* 404, *gewurpan* 436, *awurp!* 188, *awurpað* 118, *awurpe* (subj. plural) 120, (MS. C. *y*), *forwurpan* (subj.) 358; *gewurðan* 514, *gewurðað* 12, *wurð* 120, 132, *wyrð* 120 MS. C., 152. Isolated is *geweorðan* 506, in the 'Seven Sleepers' which contains several other phonetic and syntactic peculiarities, (see below).

(c) Before *l*+consonant, *e* is used except after *g*, where *y* is found. The 3d sing. indicative has *e* in *gehelfð* 190, *swelt* 68, *æ* in *swælt* 18, and *y* in *formylt* 316, *swylt* 256, 272, 276, as well as in *forgylt* 382, compare *agyldan* 368, *ofergyldað* 198. The 2d sing. does not occur. Examples of *e* are *helpe* (1) 72, *forswelgan* 48, *sweltan* I. S. 88, 198.

(d) *Bregdan*(3) drops the *g* throughout (except in MS. U in the past participle *abrogden* 222, *abrógden* 226). The present forms are: *ætbredan* 116, *ætbryst* 82, *abret* I. S. 137, *ætbrede* (subj.) 426.

2. The preterit 1st, 3d singular has *a* before nasals and *ru*, *ea* before *l* and *r*+consonant, though *eo* is regular in *heolp*, *sweolt* and *æ* in *bærst* and *bræd*. Before nasals *únbánd* 122, *dranc* 266, *befran* 174, 310, 454 I. S. 12, 17, *befrán* 72 (twice) 198, 200, 204, 214, 226, 310, 388; *began* 158, 160, 230, 242, 264, 296, 408, 414, 504 538, *ongan* 34, 228, 330 (twice) 352, 426, 452, 488, 520, *begann*, 36, 248, 502, 530, *ongann* 350, 538, *gelamp*, I. S. 240, *asanc* 112, *besanc* 48, *gesang* 104, *sprang* 294, 524, *asprang* 138, *stanc* 110, *swang* 494, *wand* 98. 217, 398, *bewánd* 518, *ætwand* 182, 414, *wan* 170, 246, 282. 340 (twice), 372, *onwan* 408, *onwann* 480. Before *rn*: *barn* 112 (twice), 208, *forbarn* 208 I. S. 462, *arn* 74, 88, 100, 136, 154, 180 (twice), etc., I. S. 217, etc., *bearn* 234. *Spearn* 174, 208, may be regarded as *éa* or as anomalous. Before *h*, *l*, *r*+consonant *ea*, in *gebealh* 64, 202, 394, *bearh* 518, *feah* 284, *forgeald* 62, 340, *formealt* 250, *spearn* 174, 208 (see above), *swealt* 428, MS. D.,

3frignan is treated as a nasal stem, see (a), but the pret. *a* was certainly long and the *u* though not accented was probably so.

awearp 50, *ofwearp* 382 (twice), *towearp* I. S. 203, *wearð* 14, etc., I. S. 297, etc., *gewearð* 5, *forwearð* 30. For *ea* we find *æ* in *wærd* 20, *bærst* 98, 316, *tobærst* 48, 112, 248, 298, 312, 372, 404, 460, 466, (see *b* above), *swælt* 16 (twice). For *ea* we have *æa* in *wæard* 104, probably a blunder, and *eo* in *geheolp* 212 (with which compare the subjunctive *geheolpe* 462) *sweolt* 396, 428. **Bregdan* has *bræd* 252, *ætbræd* 282, 424, *tobræd* 492, and, as if to indicate a lengthening in place of the *g*, *gebræd* 34.

3. The 2d preterit singular, the plural and subjunctive, are always with *u* except *geheolpe* 462 (subj.) (see 2). The cases are: *abulgon* 280, *geburge* 480, *burston* 422, *ætburste* 528, *gebundon* 190, *brudon* 528, *abrudon* 528, *ætbrudon* 424, (MS. U *ætbrúdon* as complementary lengthening), *ofabrudon* 178, *forcurfon* 28, *druncon* 164, *drunce* 330, *fuhton* 240, 406, *befrunon* 230, *forfulde* 136, *ongunnan* 12, *hulpe* 452, 492 (cf. *geheolpe* 462, see 2 above), *behwurfon* 236, *ætluþon* 492, *formulton* 208, *suncon* 598, 316 (twice), *sungon* 240, *stuncon* 102, *gestunce* 110, *ofstunge* 142, *swulton* 300, 326, *beswunce* 276, *ætwunde* (subj.) 494, *bewurpon* 390, *towurpon* 46; *wurdon* 44, etc., I. S. 164, etc., *wurde* I. S. 403, 459, and once, with a neglect of the change from *ð* to *d*, *gewurðe* (subj.) 534, which like *geweorðan* 506 is from the 'Seven Sleepers;' *urnon* 208, 324, 378, 402.

The past participle has *u* before nasals and *rn*, elsewhere *o*. Before nasals: *gebundene* 36, *unbunden* 222, *afundan* 208, *unafunden* 78, *únbegunnen* 12, *gelumpen* 524, 530, *ætumpene* 504, *topundenum* 64, *geþungen* I. S. 1, *geþungenra* 58, *geþungenran* 362, I. S. 502. Before *rn*; *forburnen* 110, 318. Before mutes and liquids except *rn*: *gebolgen* 38, *geborgen* 202, *forbroden* 470 (twice), *abroden* 222 (U. *abrogden*), 226 (U. *abrógden*), *corfene* 204, *amoltenan* 130, *toswollen* 78, *aworþene* 342, *beworþene* 390, *geworden* 422.

BENJ. W. WELLS.

Jena, Germany.

THE GERUNDIAL CONSTRUCTION IN THE ROMANIC LANGUAGES, III.

We now come to the Syntax, which will be treated under two rubrics: 1st, The Gerund

without a preposition, and 2d, The Gerund with a preposition.

THE GERUND WITHOUT A PREPOSITION.

The most striking peculiarity of the gerundial construction in the early languages, especially those of France, is its infrequency as compared with modern usage. It is more common in verse than in prose, and this is explained by the fact, that when a writer starts a "leash" (*laisse*) whose assonance or rime requires *ant*, *ent*, (*ans*, *ens*) terminations, he is often driven to seek the construction and the use of words which will give him his rime or assonance. Could we call up the shades of the old poets and question them on the subject of verse-making, many of them would have to make the same confession in this respect as Baltasar del Alcazar makes of the consonants:

Porque si in verso refiero
Mis cosas mas importantes,
Me fuerzan los consonantes
A decir lo que no quiero.

The freer use of the infinitive during the first stages of the growth of these languages doubtless exerted a great influence in preventing the rapid development of the gerundial construction, which at the present time has assumed such extensive proportions owing to the general discarding of the infinitive as a kind of verbal noun.

The following French and Provençal examples, selected as being the most noteworthy in this regard, will make plain the difference as compared with modern usage.

Et le fist mult bien à l'enz metre (modern: en
les repoussant) si que grant pris l'en dona
l'on.

Ville-Hardouin.

Si unt le clerc truvé par querre e demander
Prechant e batizant, ke ço fu sun mester.
Math. Paris, Vie de S. Auban, 1291.

Mais hardis doit estre en servir.

Jehan de Condé, B. 396, 3.

Il faisait tel noise au venir (mod. en venant)
que il sembloit que ce fust la foudre dou ciel.
Joinville, Hist. de S. Louis, ch. XLIII.

Et y mist l'on au paiement faire le samedi.
Ditto, LXXV.

Car il avait paour que il ne brisast le col au
tourner.

Ditto, CI.